Singhoke-Chaharpur and Hindi-Aulakh-Dagtoot Complexes of the 'Dhusi' bund on the Indian side have been noticed mostly since 1982-83. Protest have been lodged with Pakistan from time to time under the Indus Waters Treaty. Counter-protective measures have been taken by the Government of Punjab from time to time and 'abadis' and agricultural lands on our side were saved from adverse effects of works taken up by Pakistan. A team from the Centre inspected some of the reaches of river Ravi in February, 1990, reviewed the field situation and made some recommendations to the Government of Punjab. The Central Government has provided an assistance of Rs. 1705 lakhs to the Government of Punjab since 1983 for such Works.

**Repealing of obsolete laws**

1875. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to repeal all the existing laws which have become outdated and redundant ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to appoint a committee for this purpose ; if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) and (b) A systematic study of all existing laws is done by Government continuously and legislation is undertaken periodically by which enactments which have ceased to be inforce or have become obsolete or retention whereof as separate Acts is unnecessary, are repealed by enacting repealing and amending Acts. So far, seven such repealing and amending legislation have been enacted by Parliament in the years 1952, 1957, 1960, 1964, 1974, 1978 and 1988. Hence the Government does not propose to appoint a committee for this purpose.

**Representation from Indian Foundry Association for reduction of import duty on pig Iron**

1876. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Indian Foundry Association to reduce the import duty on pig iron so that landed price is close to the price of Steel Authority of India Ltd. : and

(b) whether they have also demanded for the canalisation of the import of pig iron through Steel Authority of India Limited to feed small scale sector units ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

**Import of natural rubber**

1877. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of natural rubber imported during each year from 1985 to 1990 ; and

(b) the quantity of natural rubber proposed to be imported during 1990-91 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN) : (a) The details of the natural rubber imported from 1985-

86 onwards are as follows :—

| Year | Quantity/ MT |
|---|---|
| 1985-86 . . . . . | 38,538 |
| 1986-87 . . . . . | 40,228 |
| 1987-88 . . . . . | 41,984 |
| 1988-89 . . . . . | 51,363 |
| 1989-90 . . . . . | 26,549 |

(b) As against an authorised quantity of 40,000 MTs decided for imports during 1990-91, a quantity of 31,700 MT has already been imported.

**Setting up of an apex level holding body for export processing zones**

1878. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bombay Chambers of Commerce and Industry has requested the Central Government to set up an Apex Level Holding Body bringing various export processing zones under its umbrella ;

(b) whether it has also suggested generation of exports worth 3000 crores of rupees per annum in a period of five years ; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A proposal had earlier been considered for setting up a Central Statutory Authority for the Administration of Export Processing Zones in India and it was decided to drop the proposal. As regards generation of higher exports from the Export Processing Zones, Government has already initiated steps to revamp the scheme of EPZ with a view ot improve the incentives and to simplify the rules and procedures to further stimulate exports from these Zones.

**Long term trade pact with the USSR**

1879. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to establish long term trade pact with the USSR ;

(b) whether the areas have been identified for the purpose ; and

(c) if so, what are the major areas which are proposed to be covered under the pact ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN) : (a) to (c) Trade Agreement between India and the USSR providing for trading on the basis of payments in non-convertible Indian Rupees and on balancing basis stands extended for a further period of five years, namely, upto 31st December, 1995. It is accordingly proposed to conclude a long term trade plan with the USSR for the 1991-95. Preliminary negotiations for conclusion of this plan have already taken place. Some of the main items of export from India to the USSR that are proposed to be included in this Plan are Agricultural products, Minerals and Ores, Chemicals Products, Leather items, Textile items, Engineering goods etc., Similarly, the main items of import that are proposed to be covered include Machinery items, Crude oil and Petroleum products, Fertilizers, industrial raw materials like newsprint, asbestos, chemicals, Steel products, Non-ferrous Metals, etc. It is expected that the Long Term Trade Plan will be finalised by the last quarter of the current year.